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016295.1509
(DC-05592)

PATENT APPLICATION
10/753,615

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REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed May 18, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 16-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 16-20 were rejected. Claim 16 has been amended. New Claims 21-31 have added.. Claim 16 -31 are now pending.

Claim Objection

Although the Office Action indicated claim 1, which is cancelled, as being objected to, Applicants believe that the objection was intended for claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to resolve the antecedent issue.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,048 issued to Erich Selna ("Selna") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,572 issued to Abeye Teshome et al. ("Teshome").

With respect to independent Claim 16, Applicants have amended to recite that the electrical trace is electrically distinct from the voltage plane and the ground plane. Applicants submit that claim 16 as amended is allowable over the cited references because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 16 as amended. A claim is non-obvious over references that do not disclose all claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974).

The Examiner supports the rejection of claim 16 by construing the claimed first path to read on Selna's conductive trace 8C and the claimed second path to read on Selna's conductive trace 10C. The Examiner completes the rejection by indicating that Selna's vias 6C provide the claimed coupling between the first and second paths. Selna's vias 6C, however, are not electrically distinct from Selna's power plane Vdd plane 260 and Vss plane 200. To the contrary, Selna's vias 6C are disclosed as making an electrical and thermal connection with Selna's Vss plane 200.

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7

Because claim 16 as amended recites elements not disclosed in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Section 103(a) rejection of independent claim 16 and its pending dependent claims 17-20.

New claims

Applicants have submitted new claims 21 through 31. New independent claims 21 and 26 are allowable over the cited references because, for example, Selna's vias 6C are in electrical contact with Selna's Vss plane 200 (claim 21) and Selna's vias 6C are not part of a trace that is suitable for receiving a data signal (claim 26). The new dependent claims recite further patentable distinctions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to take favorable action on the new claims.

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8

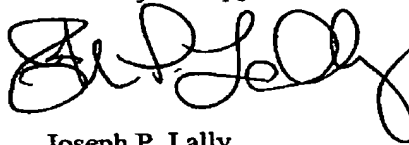
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe they have addressed each of the issues raised in the Office Action and that this case is in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request consideration and favorable action on all pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2680.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 18, 2006

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